

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 0623

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/82

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG STUDY ON WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE

REF: USNATO 0029

1. FRG GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE NPG STUDY OF WARSAW PACT STRATEGY AND DOCTRINE (SEE REFTEL) ARE PROVIDED IN PARA. 2 BELOW. FRG SPECIFIC COMMENTS POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE. DISPOSITION OF UK, NETHERLANDS AND CANADIAN COMMENTS DESCRIBED SEPTTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF FRG GENERAL COMMENTS:

(A) THIS SECOND DRAFT OF THE STUDY IS IN OUR OPINION A (STILL) VOLUMINOUS BUT WELL BALANCED AND USEFUL TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT.

BY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF PRO'S AND CON'S (PART III) - PARTIALLY BY QUESTIONNING CURRENT INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS - ALL PROBLEMS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN EVALUATED IN A SATISFACTORY
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MANNER.

(B) VERY IMPORTANT IS IN OUR VIEW THAT THE STUDY ADOPTED THE MC 161/73 STATEMENT THAT THERE IS IN FACT NO DOCTRINE OF

GRADUATED NUCLEAR RESPONSE BY WP.

"IF NATO WERE TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THE WP CAN BE EXPECTED TO RETALIATE ON A WIDE SCALE AS THE SOVIETS DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO A FORMAL STRATEGY OF GRADUATED NUCLEAR RESPONSE."

OUR ASSESSMENT AGREES TO THIS STATEMENT. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, CONSIDERATIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL BE GOVERNED BY MILITARY VIEW POINTS. ALL SOURCES (PUBLICATIONS AS WELL AS EXERCISES) MENTION AS EQUIVALENT FOR NATO ESCALATION A MASSIVE RETALIATION. BUT EVEN A MASSIVE RETALIATION STILL ALLOWS FOR A CERTAIN VARIETY IN NUMBER OF WEAPONS, TYPE OF TARGETS, YIELDS AND, IN PARTICULAR, GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRAINTS OR A COMBINATION OF ALL ABOVE MENTIONED FACTORS.

THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS FOR A PURELY POLITICAL OR DEMONSTRATIVE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY WARSAW PACT. WE APPRECIATE THE CONCLUSION MADE AT SEVERAL PARTS OF THE STUDY THAT THERE IS A CERTAIN TENDENCY FOR RESTRAINTS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY TO ASSESS OR EVALUATE THE INFLUENCE OF SUCH RESTRAINTS ON THE DECISIONS TO BE MADE IN CASE OF WAR.

(C) AS MENTIONED IN PART IV, IN THE MID 60'S USSR BECAME MORE FLEXIBLE IN THEIR STRATEGIC THINKING AS FAR AS EMPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS CONCERNED, WHICH HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE GENERAL IDEA SEEMED TO BE TO DEVELOP WELL BALANCED FORCES CAPABLE TO FIGHT UNDER ALL CONDITIONS, PURELY CONVENTIONALLY AS WELL AS GENERAL NUCLEAR WAR.

BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE THAT IN CASE OF A CONFLICT THE ONE OR THE OTHER TYPE OF WAR IS MORE LIKELY THAN THE OTHER. IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT USSR, IF REALLY WILLING TO GO TO WAR, WILL TRY TO AVOID THE USE OF NUCLEAR
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WEAPONS, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND ONCE THE DECISION IS MADE, THEN THEY HAVE AUTOMATICALLY ACCEPTED THE RISK OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

(D) AS MENTIONED DURING THE NOVEMBER SESSION, WE RECOMMEND AGAIN TO CONSIDER THE PREPARATION OF AN "EXECUTIVE VERSION" OF THE STUDY OR A SUMMARY OF THE SUMMARIES ALREADY MADE AT THE END OF EACH PART. END TEXT.
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